(c) In the case of FACT and MFL, the main reasons attributable to losses are increase in prices of naphtha/Fuel Oil being used as feedstock, increase in the prices of raw materials such as Sulphur. Rock Phosphate etc. and inadequate compensation under the pricing policy. Interruptions and constraints in supply of adequate natural gas are the main reasons for losses in respect of BVFCL.

(d) In respect of these undertakings, the cost of production varies from one unit to another depending upon the feedstock being used and its price. The details of the cost of production of fertilizers by the fertilizer producing units is given in the table below:

| Name of the PSU | Item | Cost of Production Rs/MT 2006-07(Prov. ) |
|---|---|---|
| Rashtriya Chemicals and | i. Suphala 15:15:15 | 9481 |
| Fertilizers Ltd. | ii. Urea (Thal) | 10432 |
| The Fertilizers and | 1. Ammonium | 9458 |
| Chemicals Travancore | Sulphate | |
| Ltd. | 2. Factamfos (NPS 20:20:13 | 12872 |
| | Udyogmandal Complex 3. Factamfos (NPS 20:20:13) Cochin Division | 12245 |
| National Fertilizers | Urea: | |
| Ltd. | Nangal Unit | 15785 |
| | Bhatinda Unit | 14945 |
| | Panipat Unit | 15014 |
| | Vijaipui-1 Unit | 5125 |
| | Vijaipur-II Unit | 5609 |
| Madras Fertilizers Ltd. | Urea: Manali, Chennai | 20255 |
| FAGMIL | Gypsum | 346 |
| BVFCL | Namrup-III | 6184 |
| | Namrup-II | 13450 |

(e) Not making timely changes in the production technology cannot be said to be the main reason for higher cost of production. Different reasons on unit to unit basis can be attributed for making the product uncompetitive. Primarily, inadequate availability of cheap feed stock (gas) and use of naphtha (costly feed/fuel) are the main reasons for making the cost of production uncompetitive.

**Joint venture of RCFL with West Asia**

627. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. is planning to set up joint venture projects in West Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) by when the said projects are likely to be set up and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF Ltd.) is exploring the possibility of setting up of joint venture fertilizer projects in resource rich countries where natural gas or raw materials phosphoric fertilizers are available in adequate quantity at reasonable price. The above efforts of the company are' at exploratory stage only and no proposal has been concretized, so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Setting up more NIPERs**

628. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be please to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consider of Government to set up more NIPERs or its Centres in some of the States during Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) is located at S.A.S.Nagar, Mohali, Punjab. NIPER has been set up under an act of Parliament. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee set up by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, proposal to set up some more such Institutes in the Country has been initiated. No final decision has been taken in this regard by the Government.

**Import of wheat at higher price**

629. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have decided to import wheat from the international market at a higher cost;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount of wheat that is to be imported;

(c) whether there is a stark difference between the wheat price in local markets and the price of imported wheat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?